The Mission

The Primary Care Research Fellowships at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus (UC Denver AMC) are a fully collaborative and integrated effort between the Department of Family Medicine, the Division of General Academic Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics, and the Division of General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine. The purpose of these Fellowships is to provide a rigorous two to three-year research training program to primary care physicians to enable them to be academically successful clinician-researchers.

Program Overview

There are two research fellowships in primary care. The National Research Service Award (NRSA) Fellowship provides 80% research time and includes an MPH in Public Health from the Colorado School of Public Health. NRSA fellows devote 20% time to primary care clinical duties or may opt to teach in an academic ambulatory setting. The HRSA Faculty Development Fellowship is available to clinicians with an interest in an academic faculty career and provides 60% protected time for research. This program includes completion of a Certificate in Public Health from the Colorado School of Public Health. Faculty Development fellows generally maintain 40% clinical responsibilities as directed by their primary care department.

In addition to the traditional curriculum provided by the public health coursework, all fellows participate in an innovative academic development curriculum that includes mini-courses in critical appraisal of the literature, use of secondary databases in research, medical writing, grant writing, cultural competency, and academic teaching. There are also courses in the use of public health data for community health assessment. A focal point of the Primary Care Research Fellowships is the weekly “work in progress” meeting. These meetings are research seminars for program faculty during which trainee work is presented and critiqued. All fellows are expected to complete at least one, ideally two independent research projects of publishable quality. These projects typically involve a secondary data analysis or primary data collection.

Faculty and Mentorship

One of the greatest strengths of the Primary Care Research Fellowships is the number and quality of primary care mentors at our institution. Because of the collaborative design of the training programs, fellows benefit from a large pool of mentors with a common focus in primary care research. The fellowships put major emphasis on building and maintaining strong mentoring relationships between fellows and faculty to assure programmatic supervision, development of research skills in a chosen content area and appropriate career development.

Primary Care Fellowships Director:

Allison Kempe, MD, MPH

Allison Kempe is a Professor in the Division of General Pediatrics with a secondary appointment in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at UC Denver AMC. She is the Director of Research for the Division of General Academic Pediatrics, an Associate Director of the HRSA-funded Primary Care Research Unit and Director of the Children’s Outcomes Research Program. Her research interests include immunization delivery, access to care for hard-to-reach populations, evaluation of the state child health plan initiative, and patient care using telephone and e-mail technologies.

Co-Directors:

Lori A. Crane, PhD, MPH

Lori A. Crane is an Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at UC Denver AMC where she teaches courses in program evaluation, questionnaire design, and the social/behavioral influences on health. Her current research includes studies on skin cancer prevention, informed decision-making in health care, and vaccine delivery. Her major area of interest is the delivery of disease prevention education through primary care.

Arthur Davidson, MD, MSPH

Arthur Davidson is an Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the UC Denver AMC, a family physician, and an epidemiologist in the Denver Public Health Department. Within the Health Department, as Director of Public Health Informatics, he oversees the design, implementation and evaluation of information systems. As Director of Public Health Informatics at Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA) and Director of the Denver Center for Public Health Preparedness, he oversees preparedness activities and efforts to use information systems to enhance our capacity to respond to emergencies and threats at local and state levels. His major research interest is the improvement of health care delivery through the use of information systems.

Ingrid Binswanger, MD, MPH

Ingrid Binswanger is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at UC Denver School of Medicine. Dr. Binswanger completed a Master of Science in Health and Medical Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley/University of California, San Francisco Joint Medical Program. She obtained her medical degree and completed the Primary Care Internal Medicine residency at the University of California, San Francisco. After residency, she was an attending physician at the Madison Clinic, an HIV/AIDS Clinic at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Dr. Binswanger completed fellowship training as a VA fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Washington in 2006, where she also obtained a Master’s in Public Health in Health Services. She then joined the faculty of the Division of General Internal Medicine and became an affiliated member of the Division of Substance Dependence at the University of Colorado Denver. Dr. Binswanger has conducted research on health and the criminal justice system, the medical complications of drug use and health disparities. Her goal is to find effective ways to improve the health of individuals and communities heavily impacted by drug use and incarceration.

Resources and Community Linkages

Research Infrastructure

- The Colorado Health Outcomes Program (COHO) provides education and expertise to outcomes researchers throughout the University
- The Children’s Outcomes Research Program (COR) provides education and support in the conduct of health outcomes research by Pediatric faculty.
- The Primary Care Research Unit (PCRU) fosters interdisciplinary research between the three primary care disciplines. The PCRU has established a secondary database analysis unit, staffed by experienced data analysts, to assist fellows and faculty members in conducting primary care research.
Practice-based Research Networks and Community Sites

- The Department of Family Medicine has established two unique practice-based research networks. The Colorado Research Network (CaReNet) focuses on urban disadvantaged and ethnic minority populations. The High Plains Research Network (HPRN) focuses on rural and frontier communities and populations.
- One of the most important interdepartmental research “laboratories” for the fellowships is Denver Community Health Services (DCHS), which provides outpatient, inpatient, emergency, and public health services to all Denver citizens with special emphasis on the medically indigent and underinsured.

Denver and Surrounding Area

The Denver metropolitan area is located where east meets west – at the juncture of the Rocky Mountains and the eastern plains. Denver itself lies in the foothills of the Rockies and boasts an average of 250 sunny days a year with a mild, dry climate. Just a short drive from some of the country’s best ski resorts, Denver is also close to great camping and fishing. The two words that best describe the area are “active” and “outdoors” with over 300 parks in the metro area, numerous bike paths connecting Denver to outlying communities, and a pedestrian-friendly downtown.

Denver enjoys a diverse cultural community centered on the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, which houses the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the Colorado Ballet, the Denver Center Theatre Company, and Opera Colorado. Museums and other attractions abound, from the educational to the just plain fun – including the Denver Zoo, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and Six Flags Elitch Gardens. Denver hosts five national sports teams: the Broncos, the Rockies, the Nuggets, the Avalanche, and the Rapids.

Application

To apply for either fellowship program, please send a cover letter indicating interest, your curriculum vitae, a personal statement summarizing why you are a good fit for this fellowship and your future career goals, and three letters of recommendation to:

Allison Kempe, MD, MPH
University of Colorado Denver
Primary Care Research Fellowships
MS F-443
12477 E. 19th Ave,
Aurora, CO 80045

Applicants for the NRSA Primary Care Research Fellowship must be a citizen or non-citizen national of the United States or must be lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., in possession of a currently valid Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551, or some other legal verification of such status). Non-citizen nationals are generally persons born in outlying possessions of the U.S. (e.g., American Samoa, Swains Island). Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Applicants for the HRSA Faculty Development Primary Care Research Fellowship must pursue a faculty appointment in a primary care discipline.

The fellowships do not adhere to a match date. Therefore, interviews are scheduled at the convenience of the applicant and of the admissions committee. Fellows admitted into the program begin on July 1. There is no official deadline for application, though generally positions are offered six months prior to the start of the fellowship year.

The University of Colorado Denver does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap or veteran status in the provision of services or employment.

The University of Colorado Denver is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action.